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Revision to Faculty Governance Motion #4

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Approved by the Senate: 6/8/2011
Not Approved by the Senate:
Approved by the President: 6/9/2011
Not Approved by the President:

Revision to Faculty Governance

Motion #4

Submitted by Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance/Richard Flynn

5/12/2011

Motion:

I move that the language of Faculty Governance Motion # 4 as passed by the Senate be revised as follows:

Current Wording as Approved:

“We move that faculty in each department (or, in the case of a college without departments, elected faculty) create the criteria for tenure and promotion which must be approved by a two thirds vote of the tenured and tenure-track faculty of the unit. These criteria shall then be approved by the Department Chair, the Dean, the Provost, and the President. Once the criteria have been approved they will be submitted to the faculty executive/governance committee for each college for inclusion in the bylaws of the college.”

Suggested Change:

“We move that faculty in each department (or, in the case of a college without departments, elected faculty) create the criteria for tenure and promotion which must be approved by a two thirds vote of the tenured and tenure-track faculty of the unit. These criteria shall then be approved by the Department Chair, the Dean, the Provost, and the President.”

Rationale:

It was not the intention of the Ad Hoc Faculty Governance Committee to require a 2/3 faculty vote on specific department-level T& P criteria. Indeed,

the intent of the motion was to specify that the creation of such criteria should originate at the department level. However, as approved, Senate governance motion #4 requires that department-level tenure and promotion policies be included in the bylaws of each college. Once included in the college bylaws, any subsequent change to a department-level T&P policy would then, by definition, be an amendment to the college bylaws themselves. Under the provisions of Senate governance motion #3, amendments to college bylaws require their adoption by “a two-thirds majority of faculty members present [at a general college faculty meeting], provided the required quorum is present at the time of voting.” The interplay between governance motions #3 and #4 makes changes to departmental-level T&P policies difficult (requiring a general college faculty meeting and 2/3 vote as an amendment) and subject to the approval of faculty from outside the department that wishes to make a change. This process is untenable in large colleges and can be remedied by removing the language from governance motion #4 which makes departmental T&P policies part of college bylaws. Departmental T&P policies are already subject to approval by the faculty, department chair, dean, provost, and president. They need not be part of the college bylaws themselves.

Senate Response:

Minutes 6/8/2011: Request for a Motion: Revision to

Recommendation #4 of the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance: Clara Krug (CLASS) Senate Moderator: read the request for a motion to revise Recommendation #4 of the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance.

Current Wording as Approved previously:

“We move that faculty in each department (or, in the case of a college without departments, elected faculty) create the criteria for tenure and promotion which must be approved by a two thirds vote of the tenured and tenure-track faculty of the unit. These criteria shall then be approved by the Department Chair, the Dean, the Provost, and the President. Once the criteria have been approved they will be submitted to the faculty executive/governance committee for each college for inclusion in the bylaws of the college.”

Suggested Change:

Delete the final sentence “once the criteria have been approved they will be submitted to the faculty executive/governance committee for each college for inclusion in the bylaws of the college.” It would simply read: “We move that

faculty in each department (or, in the case of a college without departments, elected faculty) create the criteria for tenure and promotion which must be approved by a two thirds vote of the tenured and tenure-track faculty of the unit. These criteria shall then be approved by the Department Chair, the Dean, the Provost, and the President.”

The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.